

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

The following is a complete listing of all the claims in the application, with an indication of the status of each:

- 1 1. (Original) A method for representing a business process within a computing system,
2 comprising the steps of:
3 defining the business process using a state-machine based representation where
4 transitions of the state machine represent roles and actions, and states of the state machine
5 represent stages in the business process where the commerce system is waiting for an
6 event to occur;
7 identifying the actions that participants with particular roles can perform at
8 particular stages of the business process by corresponding state in the state machine and
9 out-going transitions from that state.
- 1 2. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising altering the business process by
2 changing its state-machine based representation.
- 1 3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein attributes of a state-machine based
2 representation are tailored to a particular user.
- 1 4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the state-machine based representation
2 includes means for validating that actions taken by a user are allowed by the state
3 machine description so as to ensure that the user has a role that can perform the requested
4 action at that state.

1 5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the business processes and their
2 state-machine based representations can be synchronized with other business processes by
3 passing messages between state machines.

1 6. (Original) A method for executing a business process represented as a state machine
2 running on a computing system, where transitions of the state machine represent roles of
3 participants in the business process and actions that can be taken as part of the business
4 process, and states of the state machine represent stages in the business process where the
5 business process is waiting for an event to occur, the method comprising:
6 receiving from a user a command representing a desired action to be performed as
7 part of the business process;
8 checking the role of the user within the business process and a context in which
9 the command occurs;
10 if the command is allowable by a user with the role within the context, executing
11 the command.

1 7. (Original) The method of claim 6, further comprising the step of displaying to users a
2 list of possible commands to be issued by the user as part of the business process.

1 8. (Original) The method of claim 7, where the displayed commands are selected for
2 display based on the user's role within the business process, the context of the business
3 process, and the state of the business process.

1 9. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein different versions of a business process
2 represented as different state machines share software for actions common in the different
3 state machines, and share user interfaces by generating a means of user interaction based
4 on the state machine descriptions.

1 10. (Currently amended) The method of claim 6, where the execution of different
2 instances of a particular business process ~~are~~ is handled by storing a current state for each
3 instance of the business process.

1 11. (Original) A system for executing a business process represented as a state machine
2 running on a computing system, where transitions of the state machine represent roles of
3 participants in the business process and actions that can be taken as part of the business
4 process, and states of the state machine represent stages in the business process where the
5 business process is waiting for an event to occur, the system comprising:

6 means for receiving from a user a command representing a desired action to be
7 performed as part of the business process;

8 means for checking the role of the user within the business process and a context
9 in which the command occurs;

10 means for, if the command is allowable by a user with the role within the context,
11 executing the command.

1 12. (Original) A computer program product in a computer readable medium for
2 representing a business process within a computing system, the computer program
3 product comprising:

4 first instructions for defining the business process using a state-machine based
5 representation where transitions of the state machine represent roles and actions, and
6 states of the state machine represent stages in the business process where the commerce
7 system is waiting for an event to occur;

8 second instructions for identifying the actions that participants with particular
9 roles can perform at particular stages of the business process by corresponding state in the
10 state machine and out-going transitions from that state.

1 13. (Currently amended) A computer program product in a computer readable medium
2 for executing a business process within a computing system, said business process being
3 represented as a state machine running on said computing system, the computer program
4 product comprising:
5 first instructions for receiving from a user a command representing a desired
6 action to be performed as part of the business process;
7 second instructions for checking the role of the user within the business process
8 and a context in which the command occurs;
9 third instructions for, if the command is allowable by a user with the role within
10 the context, executing the command.